

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00546 071654Z

10
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ACDA-07 /089 W
----- 002785

R 071548Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5169
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASHA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MPPUTO
USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0546

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR AO SF
SUBJ: DENIAL THAT USG ASKED SOUTH AFRICA TO REFRAIN FROM
CAPTURING LUANDA

REF: CAPE TOWN 0533

1. PLEASED TO LEARN FROM THIS AFTERNOON'S ARGUS NEWSPAPER
IN CAPE TOWN THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAD ALREADY LAST
NIGHT, DENIED STORY REPORTED REFTEL. REQUEST CONFIRMATION
OF STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL QUOTED BY ARGUS AS
HAVING SAID: "OUR POSITION ON ANGOLA IS VERY WELL KNOWN.
WE HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT WE DID NOT CONSULT WITH THE SOUTH
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00546 071654Z

AFRICANS BEFORE THEY CROSSED THE BORDER NOR AFTERWARDS ON
THE DETAILS OF THEIR OPERATIONS. WE ARE STICKING TO

THAT POSITION."

2. ARGUS STORY ALSO INCLUDES COMMENT THAT ONLY PUBLIC ADMISSION OF LIAISON BETWEEN USG AND SAG WAS MADE BY FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY WHO TOLD CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE THAT SA HAD INFORMED THE US OF ITS MILITARY MOVES DAY BY DAY THROUGH INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO NEWSPAPER VERSION OF SCHWARZ-BOTHA EXCHANGES DESCRIBED REFTEL, UNREVISED PRELIMINARY HANSARD TRANSCRIPT READ AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE.

MR. H.H. SCHWARZ: SHOULD I DO SO? DOES THE HON. THE MINISTER WANT ME TO SAY WHY HE HAD TO STOP? THE HON. THE MINISTER TOLD ME THAT THE AMERICANS TOLD HIM TO STOP. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE: DID I NOT SAY THAT A MOMENT AGO? MR. H.H. SCHWARZ: THE HON. THE MINISTER ALSO TOLD ME THAT THE AMERICANS TOLD HIM TO STOP BECAUSE HE HAD, IN FACT, BEEN DOING IT IN COOPERATION WITH THEM. END QUOTE.

4. NOTE: HANDWRITTEN REVISION CHANGES LAST SENTENCE ABOVE TO READ "THE HON. THE MINISTER ALSO TOLD ME THAT THE AMERICANS TOLD HIM TO STOP AND THAT YOU DID IT IN CO-OPERATION WITH THEM." FULL TEXT WILL BE POUCHED.

5. COMMENT: WHILE DEFENSE MINISTER BOTHA IS UNLIKELY REPLY DIRECTLY TO DEPT. REACTION, AND SAG MAY LET MATTER RIDE FOR AWHILE, SAG POLITICIANS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE PROPAGATING THEIR VERSION WHEREVER IT SEEMS USEFUL, PARTICULARLY ON POLITICAL HUSTINGS, AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY REPLAY STORY IF INDEED THEY LET IT REST NOW.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAPET00546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760178-0101
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760581/aaaacrib.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CAPE TOWN 533
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DENIAL THAT USG ASKED SOUTH AFRICA TO REFRAIN FROM CAPTURING LUANDA
TAGS: PFOR, AO, SF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006